



FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF

The Harcourt Butler Institute of
Public Health, Rangoon

FOR THE YEAR 1926

Rangoon

Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Burma

1927

Price,—As. 4 = 5d.]

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Presented by

The Harcourt Butler Institute

November 1927



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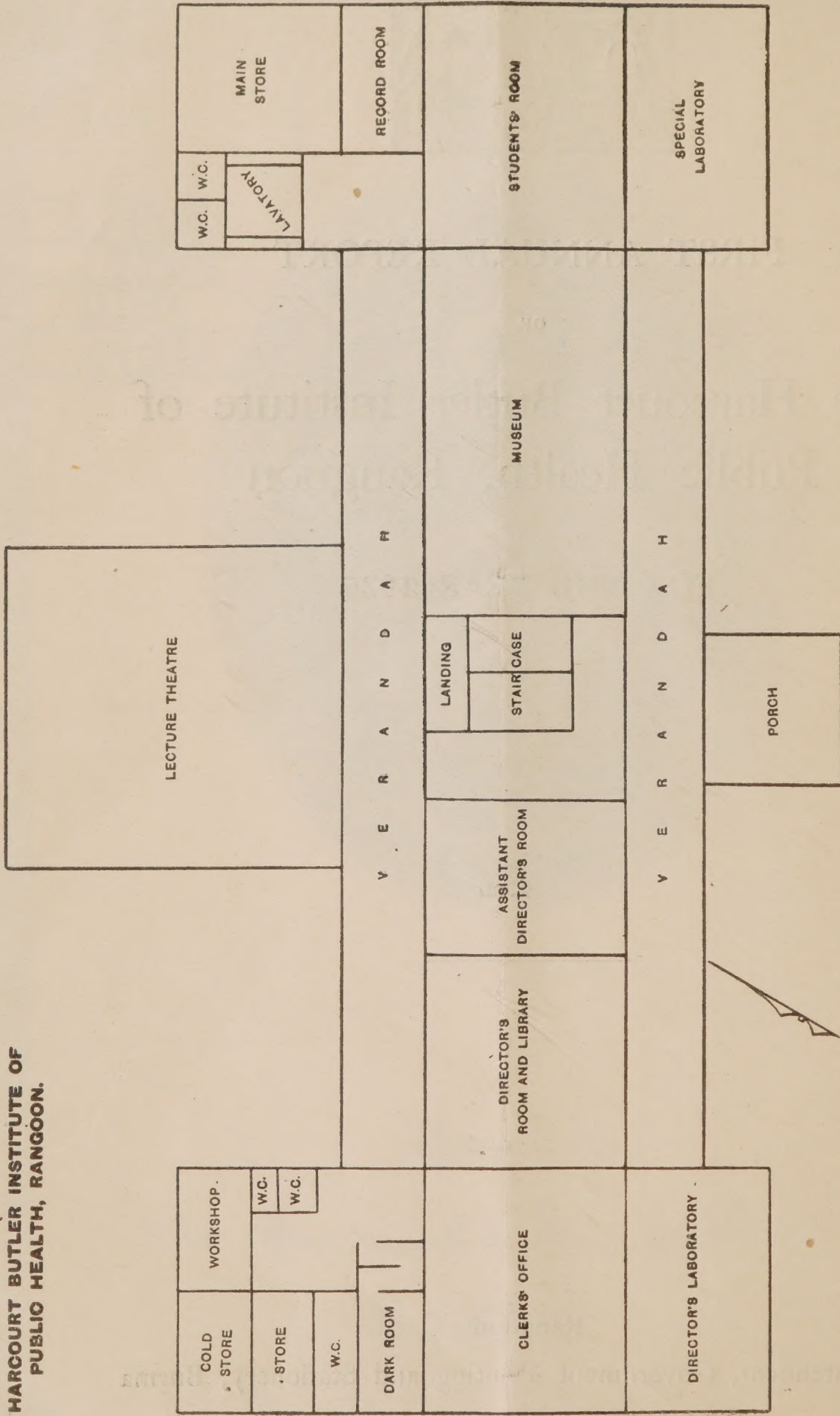
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HARCOURT BUTLER INSTITUTE OF
PUBLIC HEALTH, RANGOON.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Scale 1 inch = 24 feet.

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In submitting this first Annual Report, it is necessary to incorporate a brief account of the Harcourt Butler Institute of Public Health, Burma, from its origin to its completion.

Origin of the Institute.—On the 16th May 1923, Lieut.-Col. E. Bisset, I.M.S., Director of Public Health, Burma, addressed the Local Government pointing out the necessity for the formation of a Public Health Institute, the functions of which would be Teaching and Publicity, Routine Provincial Public Health Laboratory work and Research in Hygiene, and asked for administrative sanction for the necessary expenditure in this connection.

The proposal was favourably received by the Hon'ble Minister for Public Health who referred it to the recently created Provincial Public Health Board. That Body gave the scheme its strong support.

Administrative Approval and Provision of Funds.—The Finance Committee at their 8th meeting held on the 11th January 1924 discussed the project and recommended the provision of one and a half lakhs in the next budget estimate expressing a hope that if the full provision required could not be included in the budget for 1924-25, a sufficient amount should be included to make it possible to start the scheme. In April of the same year, the administrative approval of the Government of Burma, Ministry of Public Health, to the construction of the buildings required for the Hygiene Institute at an estimated total cost of Rs. 3,50,000 was conveyed in letter dated the 7th April 1924 from the Secretary to the Government of Burma, Department of Public Health.

Selection of a Site.—Three proposals were made by Major Jolly, the Officiating Director of Public Health, as to the selection of a site for the Institute as follows :—

1. Near the Rangoon General Hospital and Medical School.
2. On the University Site.
3. In the neighbourhood of the Pasteur Institute and Chemical Examiner's Laboratory.

Of these three sites proposed, the locality in the vicinity of the Pasteur Institute and Chemical Examiner's Laboratory was considered most suitable, and fortunately a piece of Government land on the north side of Theatre Road presented itself as a possibility. The overwhelming advantages possessed by this site were that it was central, between the University ground on the one hand and the Medical School and General Hospital on the other; that it was easy of access being close to the tram line; that it was of sufficient size, favourably placed for North light, and on a quiet side road overlooking a garden. Further it was close to both the Pasteur Institute and Chemical Examiner's Laboratory and it adjoined a sewered area while the municipal water supply main passed within a 100 yards. It was eventually decided that this site was much the best and although it was land belonging to the Military Department negotiations for its transfer were entered into with the Military Department and with the active support of Sir William Keith, the Hon'ble Finance Member, were successfully concluded by July 1924.

Naming of the Institute and laying of the Foundation Stone.—The scheme having progressed to the extent of provision of funds and the allocation of a site, the next step was the selection of an appropriate name and the laying of the foundation stone.

The great interest which His Excellency Sir Harcourt Butler had taken in the scheme from its inception and the stimulating support he had given to Public Health in the Province suggested the linking of his name with Burma's Institute of Public Health. His Excellency's permission was obtained to this and on the 21st of November 1924 he laid the foundation stone of "The Harcourt Butler Institute of Public Health."

Establishment.—Director.—On the return from leave of Major Jolly in January 1926, he took charge of the partially completed buildings and proceeded with the selection of staff. On the 1st December 1926 he was officially appointed Director of the Institute in addition to his other duties.

Assistant Director.—Mr. G. Mackey, D.T.M., I.M.D., who previously held the appointment of Assistant to the Director, Central Research Institute, Kasauli, was appointed Assistant Director of the Institute and reported his arrival for duty on the 7th October 1925.

Chemist.—U Thein Kin, B.A., F.C.S., A.T.M., was transferred from the Department of the Chemical Examiner to hold the appointment of Chemist at this Institute and reported himself for duty on the 8th November 1926.

Assistant Bacteriologist.—Mr. V. W. Fenn, late I.M.D., was appointed Assistant Bacteriologist on 1st March 1926.

Assistant Chemist.—Mr. G. C. Moitra, B.Sc. (Cal.), was appointed in this capacity on July 6th, 1926.

Apparatus and Equipment.—In October 1923, Major Jolly, I.M.S., was deputed to visit the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine to obtain particulars as to design, fittings and equipment, and in February 1925 he was again placed on deputation for three weeks during his leave in England and empowered in consultation with the High Commissioner, India Office, to purchase scientific apparatus and equipment to the value of Rs. 25,000 for the Harcourt Butler Institute. The apparatus, etc., was received in Rangoon in July 1926 and succeeding months. In addition to apparatus thus obtained through the High Commissioner, the sanction of the Ministry of Public Health was received to a proposal to take over various apparatus of the Burma Government Medical School no longer required by it.

The Institute also received in March 1926 most of the apparatus stored in the Vaccine Dépôt, Meiktila, as well as that from the old Public Health Laboratory at the Government Medical School. Sanction was further accorded to the transfer from the Chemical Examiner's Department to the Institute of certain furniture and equipment not required by the former.

Classes of Instruction.—The construction of the Institute having advanced to the extent of provision of Laboratory Benches and Stools in the teaching Bacteriological Laboratory it was decided to hold the Sanitary Inspectors' Training Class in this Laboratory, and on July 16th, 1926, the Institute opened its doors as a Teaching Institution since when these classes have been held regularly.

Routine Laboratory Work.—Owing to unforeseen delay in the erection of the Gas Plant, the Institute was not in a position to commence routine laboratory work till November 1926. The following statement shows the work done in the Bacteriological and Chemical Sections before the close of the calendar year :—

Bacteriological Section :—

Vaccine lymph (cultural)	...	...	66
Disinfectants, carbolic acid coefficient	...	...	1
Anthrax—Shaving Brushes (cultural)	...	...	4
Water—Bacteriological	...	...	15

Chemical Section :—

Samples of ghee (adulteration)	...	...	12
Samples of milk (adulteration)	...	...	1
Samples of butter (adulteration)	...	...	1
Samples of condensed milk (adulteration)	...	...	2
Samples of sessamum oil (adulteration)	...	...	3
Samples of groundnut oil cake (nutrient value)	...	...	2
Samples of Sodii morrhuas (purity)	...	...	1
Samples of Rice (Phosphatic content)	...	...	10
Samples of Rice Bran (Sand and siliceous matter)	...	...	1
Samples of Syrup	...	...	1
Samples of Water	...	...	27
Samples of Electrolytic Chlorogen (chlorine content)	...	...	1

Library.—In an Institute of Public Health a reference library containing up to date works on subjects dealing with the various branches of Public Health is obviously essential. Some books were taken over from the office of the Director of Public Health, Burma ; some from that of the Chemical Examiner, while expenditure on the purchase of new books and subscriptions to various journals was met from the budget allotments.

The Museum.—Since teaching is one of the main functions of the Institute and since it is a recognised fact that for this purpose models and specimen exhibits are of great assistance, every endeavour is being made to obtain, both by purchase and by preparation by members of the staff, a range of models and exhibits dealing with various aspects of public health including the origin, mode of spread, and prevention of the more important communicable diseases. A beginning has already been made in this direction under Malaria, Plague, Leprosy and Small-pox.

Malaria Bureau.—The special Laboratory on the ground floor of the Institute has been opened as a nucleus of a Malaria Bureau with Assistant Surgeon Feegrade temporarily in charge. Proposals for a permanent staff for such a Bureau have been submitted to Government.

Investigations.—Assistant Surgeon Maung Gale and Sub-Assistant Surgeon Banerjee were supplied with necessary apparatus for the Malarial surveys they carried out during the year.

Health Propaganda.—An inaugural meeting of the Burma Public Health Association was held in the Institute on 25th November 1926.

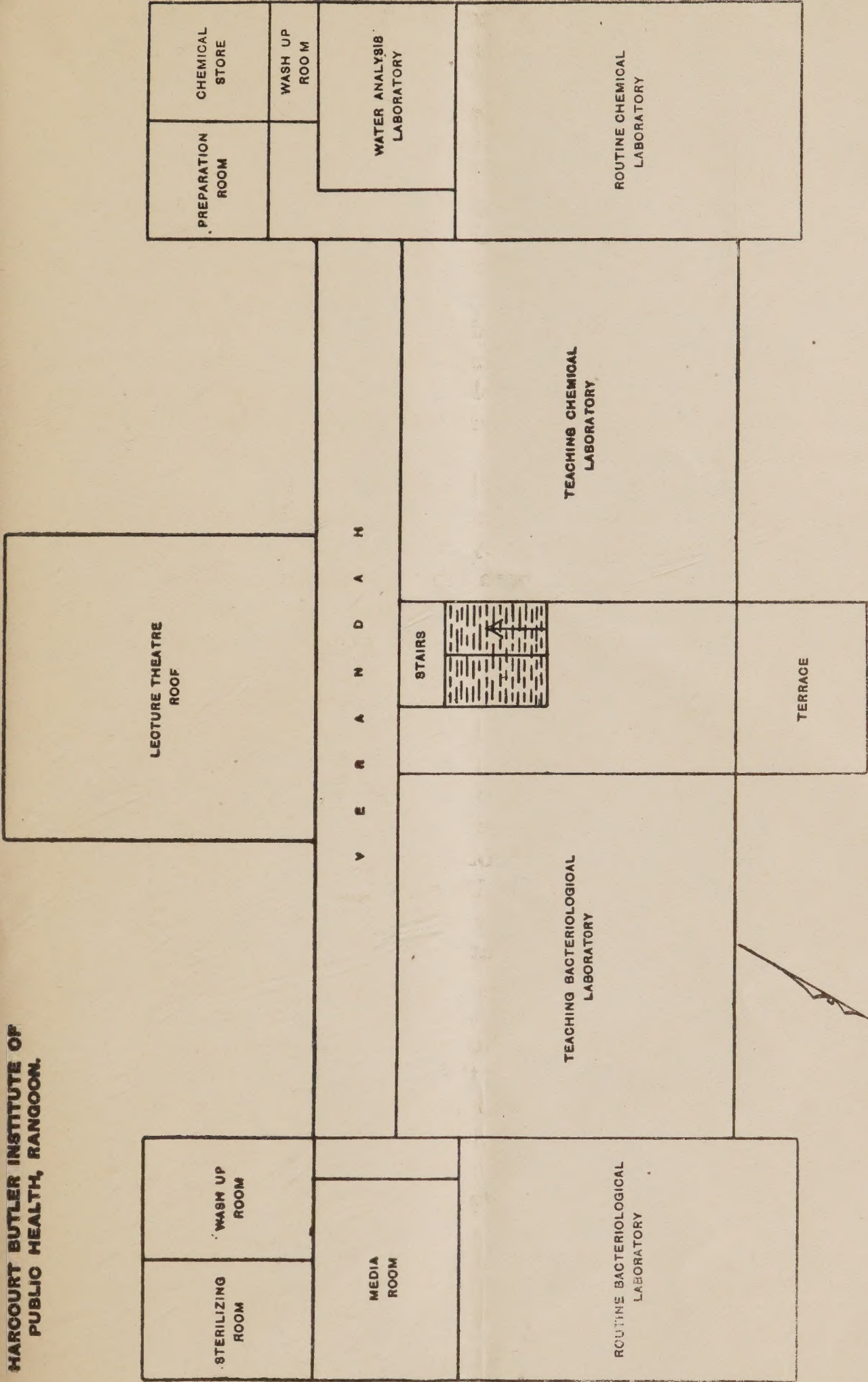
At the request of the President, Society for the Promotion of Infant Welfare, Rangoon, permission was accorded to the Society to hold their monthly meetings in the Institute.

Delegates of the British Social Hygiene Council, London, who visited Burma between the 27th December 1926 and 25th January 1927, held their Conferences and delivered lectures at the Institute.

Arrangements were made at the Institute for the collection of materials, preparation of posters, drawings, charts and models for the Rangoon Health Week Exhibition which was celebrated from the 24th to 30th January 1927, in the Building and surrounding grounds.

Opening of the Institute.—On the 14th January 1927 at 5 p.m. just over two years from the laying of the Foundation Stone, the Harcourt Butler Institute of Public Health was formally declared open by His Excellency Sir Harcourt Butler, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., I.C.S., in the presence of a large and representative gathering.

G. JOLLY, Major, I.M.S.,
Director, Harcourt Butler Institute
of Public Health, Rangoon.



UPPER FLOOR PLAN

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